



SOCER ACTION

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CRUNCH!



Andrew Bernal, star of the Australian team which qualified for the 1985 World Youth Cup Finals, has been selected to play for the Spanish under 21 team.

It was only after selecting him that Spanish authorities learnt that he was ineligible because he played for the young Socceroos.

Bernal went to Spain in 1985 to try to fulfil his boyhood dream of playing in the Spanish First Division. Having spent time with Sporting Gijon, he is now playing for Jerez Cadiz in Second Division.

However, he could be back in Australia by June. It was only when he arrived in Spain that he discovered that in spite of being a Spanish citizen because he had played for

BERNAL'S SET FOR SPAIN

But first former Roo star has to complete national service stint



JOHN MANGAN

friends for fear of being mobbed by fanatic Spanish fans who idolise their footballers.

When he did get a weekend off recently and went to a disco, word got back to the club that he and two or three of his team-mates had been seen partying at one o'clock in the morning. The next day he was brought before the manager and fined the equivalent of \$500 for undisciplined behaviour!

Croatia denies Banovic claim

Melbourne Croatia reacted angrily to last week's story in 'Soccer Action' in which Yalika Banovic claimed that he had been "conned" into thinking that Croatia was really keen to sign him.

"It was not possible to join Croatia... I just want all the Croatia supporters to know that it wasn't the money that stopped me returning this year... I was prepared to settle for a couple of thousand dollars signing on..."

Croatia secretary Steve Drazetic denied that it was the committee which did not sign Banovic, the transfer list for Yugoslav Juvakon goalkeeper.

"We entered negotiations with Yalika with good intentions. We decided that we would spend \$18,000 altogether to get Yalika. We thought that we could get him for about \$16,000 and if that had been the case we would have been prepared to give him \$2,000 as a fee," said Drazetic.

"At first, Yalika wanted \$15,000 to sign on, provided we only had to pay \$10,000 for his transfer. I understand that Yalika was prepared to accept \$10,000 to sign on if we had to pay \$10,000 for his transfer. We had set that \$18,000 limit for the whole deal — transfer fee and signing-on fee — and weren't prepared to budge. That's why negotiations broke down," said Drazetic.

GONZALEZ SIGNS

NSW State League club Uruguay has signed former Uruguay international defender Washington Gonzalez and expects him to arrive in Sydney within the next three weeks.

Gonzalez is a former Nacional and Penarol player. He played for Nacional against Nottingham Forest in the Seiko Super Cup match in Tokyo in 1981. That game was for the world club championship and Nacional won 2-0.

Uruguay announced last week that it had changed its name. It was known as Auburn Uruguay last year but that's no longer the case. Auburn was one of the oldest clubs in NSW and, like Hakoah in Melbourne, now is no more.

COUGH SAYS SORRY

Nottingham Forest manager Brian Clough has apologised for calling African soccer nations "a load of spearthrowers who still go around eating each other".

Clough made the remark after African countries said Britain should be restricted to a single national team — rather than four home country teams — in the 1990 World Cup.

Clough apologised after a West Indian group complained to the English Football Association.

He will not be disciplined, an FA spokesman said.

INSIDE

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Andy Edwards with the George Cross team, back row: Steve Richardson, Lou Kastner, Sean Keogh, Andrew Marth, John Markovski, Carl Gilder, Kevin Innes, Noel Mitten, Don MacLaren. Front row: Paul Trimboli, Shaun Parton, Chris Taylor, Jeff Faulkner, Roger Bain, Edwards. Picture: LES SHORROCK.

Edwards: Made debut then cleaned out the rooms!

George Cross striker Andy Edwards had to clean out a changing room immediately after making his debut in senior soccer.

This, it must be hastily added, was not punishment for a poor display, but as the groundstaff boy rostered for "home dressing-room duty", it was his responsibility to lay out Wrexham's kit before the match and mop out its changing room afterwards.

Edwards joined home town club Wrexham, then a proud member of English League Division Two, straight from school in 1981 and just over a year later was informed by manager Bobby Roberts that one of the sets of strips the youngster had laid out for a Milk Cup game against Shrewsbury Town would be worn by him. This was just one hour before the kick-off.

Edwards replaced the injured Dixie McNeill (now Wrexham's manager) and made an impressive showing, slogging away tirelessly during a 1-0 win.

A Football League debut came a week later against Lin-

By PAUL MOON

their team is now finding the back of the net more often.

Edwards played in 114 league games for the north Wales club and notched 27 goals. The respected observers of the English League Division Four contacted, rated him as

a "very useful" performer.

After a settling down period at the end of the last Australian season, the Welshman, who will be 22 on March 28, should now be ready to confirm his worth to George Cross followers.

Football for Africa



• Steve Archibald

Diego Maradona, the world's greatest footballer, and Pele and George Best, who both claimed that title in their heyday, were in action at Wembley in April.

Steve Archibald, the former Tottenham and Scottish striker now with Barcelona, is hoping to arrange a football for Africa spectacular at Wembley and has representatives of the English football association last weekend to discuss the matter.

Archibald, who stresses that this match has nothing to do with the Football League v The Rest of the World match proposed for next August, says that he has arranged such a feast of football after seeing a Bob Geldof Live Aid programme.

"We're really shocked by the condition of people in Africa and began to organise a football spectacular," he says.

"I have written to all the world's leading players and I have had replies from Maradona, Schuster, Valdano, Butragueno, Ardiles, Lineker, Hughes, Schumacher and Maradona's two brothers, plus two Danes, Laudrup and Eriksen, saying they will play."

"I am also hoping that Pele and Best could perhaps play for us. I would like to stage the game hopefully at Wembley in April."

"I have already had FIFA permission to stage such a match."

An English FA official said that nothing definite had been decided and pointed out that all the world stars, even if they were prepared to play in such a match, would have to get permission from both their clubs and their national associations.

Archibald is not quite sure who the two teams will be called.

"Perhaps it could be the Rest of the World v Princess Anne's XI or something like that. That could be decided later if we get the go-ahead."

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EDITOR: Craig MacKenzie

ASSISTANT EDITOR: John Mangan

MANAGING EDITOR: Leonard J. Shaw

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Joe Palatines NEW SOUTH WALES: Gordon Durnford, The Globe Bridge Co, 64 Victoria St, North Sydney 2060. Phone: (02) 957 2033

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Williams joins Springvale, Boland next?

By JOHN MANGAN

Victorian State League club Springvale City signed Jim Williams and Dragan Vasic last week and was rumored to be interested in Dennis Boland.

Vasic, who played with Springvale coach Bobby McLachlan at Footscray JUST, was bought from Royal Richmond for \$1,800. Vasic was the leading scorer in the Second Division of the Victorian League last season and was beaten on a countback by Royal Richmond team mate Joe Picioane for the best and fairest award in Second Division.

Williams, a former Victorian representative, made his mark at St Kilda before joining Heidelberg. It was McLachlan who then brought Williams to Green Gully in the early 1980s and last year Williams played with Altona City.

McLachlan expects the State League to be a tougher competition this year than it has been for quite a while. He expects Williams to be an inspiration to his team.

"It's so refreshing seeing a player like Jim at training. He's so competitive and he's got such an appetite for the game that it puts younger players to shame — and this is a man who has won so many medals at Green Gully," said McLachlan.

Springvale also has appointed Billy Milne as reserve team coach. Milne comes to Springvale after spending a couple of seasons with Gus Macleod at Pawkner.

Boland was one of many Frankston Pines players to ask to go on the transfer list after Pines lost 4-2 to Preston Makedonia in the Buffalo Cup last Saturday night.

The recent upheaval at Pines which saw the club forced to close its social rooms thereby losing a vital source of income, has led to a lot of unrest among the players.

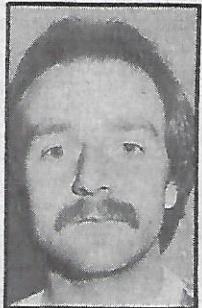
"Soccer Action" reported last week that most players had settled down after a new committee was voted into office but it seems that that isn't the case.

Alex Dick and John Cullen have joined Boland on the transfer list, both at their own request, and clubs no doubt will be clamoring for their services.

Pines are rumored to be offering just \$40 a fortnight to their first team players, making them the lowest paid in the Victorian State League.

Boland is on a free transfer so the former South Melbourne Hellas and Footscray JUST goalkeeper, who still is one of the finest custodians in Victoria, certainly won't be short of offers.

Meanwhile, Thomastown has placed eight players on the transfer list. In addition to



• Jim Williams



• Frank Farina: "Everything is so professional at Marconi, down to the little things. All the gear is supplied, they have a full-time physio and full-time groundsmen — it's excellent."

FEE HOLDS NO FEARS FOR FRANK

By JOHN MANGAN

Playing with a \$30,000 price-tag on his head doesn't concern Marconi's exciting new signing from Sydney Hakoah, Frank Farina.

"The club obviously decided before they bought me that they wanted me and I've just got to go out now and play my natural game," the Soccerco striker said.

Sometimes a club can spend a lot of money on a player and the promise of the club's and the fans' expectations can affect the player's game, but that's just not the case at Marconi.

"We're not an amateur team and I can't get out there playing the game — which is what I have been doing," said Farina.

Eddie Thomson, Farina's coach at Sydney Hakoah, was reluctant to let Farina leave the club but the departure was an amicable one.

"Eddie rang me on the Saturday morning before my first game for Marconi to wish me all the best. He told me to forget the pressure and just go out and play," said Farina.

At Marconi, Farina is teaming up with Gerardo Gomez who also made the move over the summer from Sydney Hakoah.

"Gerry's position was different to mine — he had requested a transfer — while in my case Marconi had approached Hakoah and then Hakoah asked me if I wanted to go."

A number of top players have left Hakoah over the close season for various reasons. John Kosmina couldn't agree terms and joined Olympic, while Joe Watson wanted to take the post of player-coach at NSW Second Division club Kingsford. Hakoah released Watson on a free transfer as he had given many years of service to the club.

Farina is understandably excited about having joined a club he which acknowledges has, on paper, one of the best teams in the country. But it's not just that that has impressed Farina.

"Everything is so professional at Marconi, down to the little things. All the gear is supplied, they have a full-time physio and full-time groundsmen — it's excellent."

"And of course having an Italian name doesn't do any harm in a club like this," he joked.

Farina is also fortunate that he knew most of the Marconi players before he joined as well as having played with many of them in the national team. With only a handful of games under his belt for Marconi he feels very much at home in his new surroundings.

Marconi's new coach, Roberto Vieri, seems destined to end the team's image of being a cautious, defensive outfit.

"Roberto likes the close-in stuff, the one-touch football, and if you look at our team with players like Gerry (Gomez), David Lowe and Ian Gray, we have a very attacking midfield."

Farina will be teaming up in Marconi's forward-line with another newcomer, Steve Maxwell, who has made the trip from Australia to join the squad. Farina says that Maxwell is settling in well and certainly, in the State Bank Challenge Cup, both strikers have been putting the ball in the back of the net.

Farina is looking forward to a successful year with the new-look Marconi line-up and thinks that Marconi's depth will be crucial as the season unfolds.

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BLANCO'S BACK!

Raul Blanco is back in town!

After an absence of 18 months, the ex-coach of St George, Marconi, Canterbury, Melita Eagles and assistant to the Australian national youth coach has returned from a successful visit to Argentina.

Les Shennig, Mike Urukale, Rale Rasic, Ljubo Gojkovic... just some of his colleagues and close friends who were among the first to greet the likeable Blanco, affectionately known as "Menotti".

Blanco's been a long time gone from Sydney, so

By
ALEX VESIC

how did he spend his time on a continent where football is not merely sport, but life itself?

"I am usually not short of words, but there are no adequate words to describe the way you feel if you are closely involved in the game in Argentina. An example was the 1986 World Cup Final. The streets of Buenos Aires were totally deserted. There was no life at all."

Then Diego Maradona sent that incredible pass to Burruchaga and Argentina became champion of the world for the second time in eight years. It was incredible," said Blanco.

"People poured into the streets by the thousands. A city of 10 million looked as if it had fifty million people. All the country's massive economic problems were forgotten. The problems caused by the military also were forgotten with people streaming into the streets of their faces wet with tears of joy."

Blanco coached Dock Sud, the Argentinian side

which in 1985 finished eighth and was looking for a miracle in 1986 to reach the Second Division. Blanco provided that miracle.

"I had problems at the start of my stay in Argentina. I was hoping for an extended holiday and was given an offer by Dock Sud on my arrival. However, I could not coach since I didn't have an Argentinian coaching badge. Not to dwell on this point too long, I went through a series of formalities and a couple of long interviews before obtaining a badge which gave me the chance to coach."

"I was working close to the home of San Telmo, the team I played for in my youth. In fact it was San Telmo which stood in the way of Dock Sud and a place in Second Division and we had to play two games against San Telmo to decide which side would be promoted. We drew 0-0 and won 3-2 in the return leg."

"I still get goose pimples, just thinking about that second game. The roar of the crowd and the approval they show of the spectacle is incredible."

"At times it is almost frightening." Being at the centre of football euphoria in Latin America obviously reminded Blanco of his playing days and rekindled his enthusiasm for the game.

"I remember going to see Boca Juniors playing River Plate with 90,000 people in attendance. One side of the ground was populated by Boca supporters and the other by River Plate supporters. The singing went on for the full 90 minutes and it was rivalry at its best."

"While one side of the ground was singing and

dancing to the beat of drums the other was hushed just waiting its turn. Whichever group of supporters you happen to be with you go along with their singing and dancing or you wind up in trouble."

It is that kind of atmosphere that gives Argentinian soccer a fervor unique in South America.

Brazilians have their sambas while the Argentinians sing. And play great football too!

But surely there is life outside of football.

"If there is I haven't seen it," said Blanco.

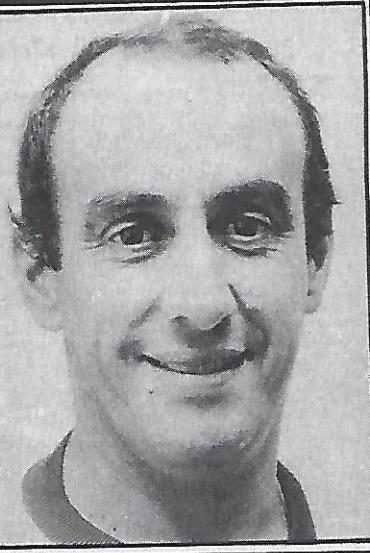
"I used to walk along Hingenero Huergo, the street close to Dock Sud stadium. There was this little shop I used to go to and buy drinks or sweets.

Along the road you'd meet a milkman, a shop owner, a pensioner, a housewife or children and without exception they'd clench their fists in salute to you and your team. 'We are going to win on Sunday, eh?' they'd ask but there was no way I could get involved in any conversation or I'd never get home!"

"Do you know that for about a week after Argentina won the World Cup about 25,000 people stood in front of Diego Maradona's home in Buenos Aires chanting: 'Diego! Diego! Diego!' His mother would turn up on the balcony every now and then to wave to the crowd."

So why did Blanco decide to return to Australia?

"My 20 years in Australia was not just a period of time that passed without friends being made. And I think I made a fair number of friends. Those I remembered from my youth in Argentina have gone, some to other cities, while some have vanished. I felt happy with my family, my



• Raul Blanco — back from Argentina after taking Dock Sud to promotion to Second Division.

parents, my brother, my two sisters, but I realised my home was the one I made for myself in Australia and I knew that my holiday had to come to an end."

So what does Blanco think about Australia's chance at World Cup level after his stay in the country of the world champion?

"We have to work at it, but let's not forget that we have as many successful youth players as anybody else in the world. Burruchaga and Clausen were in the World Youth Cup in 1981 and part of the Argentinian team that was defeated by Australia 2-1. Five years later they

were in the side which won the World Cup!"

"In the meantime let's not forget our successful players from our 1981 national youth team. Mitchell is in West Germany, Patikas in Greece, Raskopoulos and Wheatley are in the national side and Blair is on the sidelines waiting for his chance to get into the team. Oscar Crino has played abroad. There was and still is a lot of talent in Australia."

His beloved Buenos Aires now is as far away as ever. Hingenero Huergo, Dock Sud and San Telmo are just memories, albeit great ones.

Raul Blanco is back and back to stay.



• The power and passion of Argentinian football is on full view as Diego Maradona celebrates his country becoming champion on the world.

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Group A standings

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Ad. Juventus	2	0	0	7	0	4
Beograd	1	0	1	2	2	2
Campbelltown	1	0	1	2	2	2
Salisbury	0	0	2	0	7	0

Group B standings

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Ad. Hellas	2	0	0	9	3	4
Ad. Croatia	1	1	0	4	3	3
Para Hills	0	1	1	3	5	1
Polonia	0	0	2	3	8	0

CAMPBELLTOWN CITY 2 (Amos 22nd and 72nd) BEGRAD 1 (Preston 65th) at Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 2400 (double-header). Referee: Bob Kerr. Caution: Amos (CC).

CAMPBELLTOWN CITY: R. Parks, 9. Richardson, 7. Oliverkerk, 7. Tufts, 8. Gaber, 6 (S. 22nd, 72nd), 41st), 8. Amos, 3. Sprout, 9. Polson, 7. Belthome, 7. Hessey, 7. Gray, 7. Muth, 7. Coach: David Jenkins.

BEGRAD: 6. Pasquini, 6. Kozman, 7. Signore, 8. Greater, 8. Alberton, 6. Douglas, 7. Milar, 67th), 5. Brazza, 6 (Welsh 41st, 7), A. Grazale, 7. Goldsmeidt, 6 (Rusmir 41st), 5. Arezina, 8. Preston, 7. Coach: Norman Lees.

ADELAIDE HELLAS 3 (Price 2nd and 33rd, Atsala 56th) PARA HILLS 1 (B. Crook 18th) at Hindmarsh Stadium. Referee: Graham Neal. 7. Caution: Mousoulis (Hellas).

ADELAIDE HELLAS: Sprout, 7. Frantzis, 7. Hiern, 8. Mousoulis, 7. Panagis, 7. Mousoulis, 7. (Stefanopoulos 74th), Keramidis, 6 (Atsala 41st), Hristodoulou, 7. Hessey, 7. Konstandopoulos (74th), 8. (Koufoulis 74th). Price, 8. Coach: Peter Jaksan.

PARA HILLS: M. Crook, 9. Harvey, 7 (Dawson 47th, 7), Tomlinson, 7. Humphreys, 8. Horry, 7. Leembrugge, 6 (Waine 70th), Klein, 7, T. Blute, 6, B. Crook, 7. Coach: Barry Simpson.

After scoring a hat-trick for Hellas in its first game against Polonia, diminutive Gary Price delivered the goods again to lead the blue and whites to the top of Group B.

Price this time notched two goals to sink Para Hills and assure Hellas a semi-final berth.

Second half substitute Steve Atsala made it 3-1 with a 56th minute effort for his second goal of the series, but the scoreboard failed to tell the dramatic story of the heroic resistance displayed by former Hellas goalkeeper Martyn Crook.

After 11 years of faithful service to Hellas, Martyn Crook returned to his former club to be replaced by his ex-Hellas team mate, Steve Atsala.

Familiarity, it seems, breeds contempt, because Hellas threw everything at its former hero in the first 30 minutes, but apart from Price's second minute goal when he was cruelly exposed, Martyn Crook performed brilliantly.

The former Socceroo had the crowd roaring as he stopped drives from George Konstandopoulos (three) and Lou Hristodoulou and generally marshalled his Para Hills defenders.

Crook's efforts and a penalty

Success tonight vital to Beograd

converted by his young brother, Barry, kept the score at 1-1 until the 33rd minute when Price hit home his second goal.

Hellas had experienced Gary Sprout back in goal at the expense of young Peter Theodorakos, who earned rave notices for his performance against Polonia.

Para welcomed back former captain Lauris Humphreys after a year out of the game because of a knee injury, and Geoff Tomlinson, who has returned from England.

Rothmans League champions Campbelltown City won its first game of the series with two penalty kicks from captain Steve Amos to throw the Group A semi-final spots into confusion.

With Campbelltown and Beograd locked together on two points each after two games, the semi-finalists could be decided on goal-difference.

But Campbelltown's chances of major round participation appear better because it must face Salisbury United in its next match, while Beograd must play national champion



• Steve Atsala of Adelaide Hellas (second from left) heads past former team mate Martyn Crook, now the first choice goalkeeper at Para Hills. Picture: FRANK HOBBS.

Adelaide City Juventus tonight (Wednesday).

Campbelltown had a pre-

match set-back when it lost

striker Chris Key because of an

eye injury suffered while play-

ing tennis.

It was a new-look City which

faced Beograd as manager-

coach David Jenkins paraded

new signings Bobby Tufts,

Duane Gray and Steve McNally.

The new trio were instant

successes — Tufts was superb

at sweeper, Gray was com-

manding in the midfield and

McNally proved an effective

striker.

Beograd had its stroke of

luck with the return to duty of

experienced Brian Welsh,

Richard Preston and Dusan

Rusmir.

It was makeshift striker Paul

Beltrame who engineered the

first goal with a header which

Beograd's Martin Goldsmeidt

handled on the goal-line with

his goalkeeper Frank Pasquini

beaten.

Amos expertly slammed the

spot-kick home — a feat he re-

peated after David Alberton

handled the ball in the 72nd

minute.

In between those penalties,

Beograd levelled through Pres-

ton, but despite some desper-

ately hard running from Djuro

Arezina and Andy Brazza

and some enterprising forward

moves, Campbelltown's brill-

iant goalkeeper Robbie Parks

had the final say.

8-day training trek for Olympia

By
WALTER PLESS

Olympia-WPL set a precedent in Tasmanian soccer this week when the club's senior squad embarked on an 8-day training camp in Sydney.

The side left Hobart last Saturday and will return this Sunday.

"I thought I could prepare the team better for the start of the season in terms of a system of play by going on this training trip," coach Ken Morton said.

"We've had 18 training sessions to date and this will be the finale to our pre-season work."

Olympia will play three practice matches against New South Wales state league teams Sutherland, Blacktown City and Melita Eagles.

The trip is costing \$10,000 and the players raised the money themselves through various fund-raising ventures.

The Olympia squad making the trip is: Martin Burden, Chris Hey, Matthew Bloomfield, David Cramond, Michael Berwick, Chris Barrell, Roger Munro, Michael Goldsmith, Perry Forster, Paul Xanthopoulos, Craig Nichols, Andrew Hart, Anthony Harb, Paul Tsangaris, Con Tsikakis, Marco Nikitaras, George Xanthopoulos and John Collar.

Pless appointed

Karl Pless has been ap-

pointed senior coach of Cal-



• Peter Angel (left) of White Eagles confronts Ronnie de Felice of Juventus-Pioneer. Eagles won the pre-season friendly 2-1.

bury State League club

Caledonians.

The club had announced the

appointment of Welshman and

former Ipswich town regular,

32-year-old Les Tibbot, last No-

vember, but he decided not to

come to Tasmania at the last

minute, despite having signed

a contract.

Calies intend taking some

form of proceedings against

Tibbot for breach of contract.

Pless, who gained his Level

Three coaching certificate last

year, has coached at both ju-

Eagles triumph

White Eagles, the reigning

Calderay State League cham-

pions, beat Juventus-Pioneer

2-1 in a pre-season friendly

last week.

Andrew Leszczynski, from the penalty spot, and David Stoddart gave Eagles a 2-0 half-time lead before Frank Geno-
vesi pulled a goal back for Juventus in the second half.

Both teams have new coaches, with former player Bob Rybak taking over at Eagles from Steve Darby, who is now living in Canberra, and Peter Irvine, last year's Newcastle boss replacing David Smith at Juventus.

Two for Azzurri

Newcomer to the Calderay State League, Hobart City-Az-
zurri, has signed Neil Bishop from Taranto and Franco Previdi from White Eagles.

Both strikers will be available for the Calderay Summer Cup series as he will undergo a knee operation soon.

Howrah duo Karl Brightman and Duncan Swift are training with City, as is Metro's Brett House, while the club is also negotiating with Inter-Mon-
aro's Carlo Ambrosino.

Another player training with City is Johan Hosenbier, formerly with Box Hill and Wilmelina in Victoria.

City was scheduled to travel north on the weekend to meet Ulverstone and Devonport City in pre-season friendlies.

Parker to go?

Top Tasmanian striker Ian Parker of Caledonians has been training with and playing friendly matches for Ju-
ventus-Pioneer.

Parker's future with Calies is uncertain but it is not unusual for him to train with other clubs in the pre-season months before returning to Calies just before the first ball is kicked in

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Frank Lowy may be president of Sydney's Hakoah Club and have a decisive say in Westfield affairs but soccer fans needn't get carried away by Westfield's takeover of the Ten Network. It's not going to lead to a major commercial TV breakthrough for the code in this country.

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THAT MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM IS UPON US AGAIN

Once again, it seems, that soccer — or more precisely the West End National League — is off on a chase after the rainbow.

Our officialdom is off into battle, with Summer Soccer boldly emblazoned on its banners.

From the way the bandwagon has gathered speed in recent weeks it may seem a wise move to find a bookie willing to offer odds on a switch in seasons.

Now don't misunderstand me, I am not opposed to the idea, not at all.

Summertime football, during months of daylight saving and balmy nights, played on pitched lush and green, instead of muddy and/or bumpy, is sure to be a vast improvement in current conditions during the height of winter in July and early August especially.

Yes, not only am I not opposed to the innovation — I am, in fact, positively in favor of it.

But, as so often in the past, once again I would risk getting under the skin of our soccer administrators by playing Devil's Advocate.

What disturbs me is that with soccer in an almighty hole in this country, and seemingly furiously engaged in digging itself in ever deeper, with an enthusiasm bordering on desperation the West End NSL clubs give all the appearance of looking on the summer soccer idea as the way and the means of saving their bacon, putting them firmly on the road to long-term success.

That is a beautiful dream, but with dispassionate examination fails far short of reality.

A change of seasons can only be considered part of a package of measures which are needed to start the long climb back to the pedestal on which soccer was some 20 years ago.

Vastly improved club management is a major priority, with only a few clubs measuring up to the task in this most vital of all areas.

A professional attitude to public and media relations is another element where shortcomings are often just short of tragic — although improvements have been made.

The upgrading of facilities has been lurching ahead in a stop-go fashion, but some of the grounds are a little less Spartan than they were a few years ago.

But all the foregoing pale into insignificance against the most vital factor of all.

Two decades and more ago facilities were much worse than now and club management — with some rare exceptions — wasn't of a particularly high standard, either.

What was better was the sheer quality and entertainment value of the soccer served up by our top teams and players.

No amount of jargon by current day coaches, no learned words by soccer "academics" about the improvements in fitness, strength and speed of the game will convince this columnist to change his mind.

What's more, I am supported by the hundreds and thousands who have gone missing from the soccer stadia of this country since the 1960s.

The vanishing fan is not a phenomena unique to Australia, the same has been happening world-wide for many years.

Our problem is that countries like England, Argentina and the rest of them have started their decline in crowd figures from a much higher level.

If a 50,000 average per game falls to 30,000 the consequences may well be near disastrous financially, but the atmosphere, excitement and sheer magic created by a big crowd roaring its encouragement week in and week out still is there.

On the other hand, the drop in Australian support has seen crowds sink into the hundreds in many, many cases.

Nor was the cancer of so-called modern football, a world-wide disease as far as I am concerned, the only culprit.

There were the well documented self-inflicted wounds as well.

Such as the Great Name Witch Hunt, which turned uncounted thousands of ethnic supporters off our game for good.

Or the helter skelter expansion of the NSL to 24 teams when we had — maybe, just maybe — enough good players by current standards to staff, say, 10 teams.

All in all, summer soccer, while a highly desirable move if implemented sensibly and with sensitivity, can only have any lasting beneficial effect on the game in Australia if a part of a much larger, all encompassing package of administrative and technical reforms.

Anything short of that will see our change of seasons becoming just another way-station in soccer's decline into terminal mediocrity.

Selective listening

Many of the accusations levelled at soccer's bosses in Australia concentrate on their glaring unwillingness and seeming inability to listen to advice.

This, of course, isn't entirely true.

What is manifestly true, though, is the fact that the game's decisionmakers seem to have an uncanny ability to sift through advice and adopt as their own only the bad kind.

Summer soccer, previously mooted but defeated by the concerted campaign of a narrow section of the media, is the most topical example.

Then we had the snake oil salesmen who saw salvation in American style nicknames.

Or the promoters who weren't backward in frankly admitting — in the company of media men and women

— that they found the sport from which their livelihood was derived a colossal bore.

Or the dinky-di smarmies who managed to get traditional names banned and in one fell swoop managed to banish a generation and a half of soccer's natural support.

Will this knock for listening to bad advice finally disappear?

On the answer hangs soccer's survival and the chances — however, slim at this point in time — of its climb back to big-time status.

Misplaced hopes?

There was an unmistakable ripple of excitement in soccer circles when Westfield's takeover of television channels 10 in Sydney and Melbourne was announced early last week.

Soccer, or more accurately the NSL, is still in search of commercial television exposure.

Frankly, even a bit of ABC would be more palatable than the much underestimated and unappreciated SBS coverage.

It is no secret that the man who has the decisive say in Westfield affairs is Frank Lowy, who is deeply steeped in soccer involvement and tradition.

Lowy is president of Sydney's Hakoah Club, was one of the two prime movers in the establishment of the NSL — Sir Arthur George Williams was the other — and when it became abundantly clear that the "train" was pulling out of the station either with him, or without him. However, those expecting an inclination towards giving soccer exposure on the Ten Network now taking shape are probably deluding themselves and there are a number of reasons for this.

First and foremost Frank Lowy is a businessman and a brilliant one at that.

He has already made it quite clear — and he didn't really have to — that the purchase of television interests was purely a business decision.

Soccer, or any other category of programming, will only make an appearance on his stations if such decision can be justified in an atmosphere of harsh business reality.

And if that wasn't enough of a reason, then the fact that Lowy has completely given soccer away in recent years, not even attending Hakoah games, is another point to his attitude in this matter.

The Westfield boss has much bigger fish to fry, as last week's events amply illustrated.

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Croatia, Olympic, Melita and Marconi for semis!

In one of the best matches to date, Melita Eagles subdued Sydney City Hakoah at St George Stadium on Sunday to top Group D and set up quarter-final clash with APIA in the 1987 State Bank Challenge Cup.

It was fierce, it was fast and it was entertaining and if Graeme Warne, the referee, lacked a bit of pace to keep up with proceedings nobody could complain. Hard as he tried, he just could not keep up with the pace of 22 players that battled through the hardest 80 minutes of Cup football so far this season.

In the end, Melita won a goal scored with Anthony Wellburn and created by Ray Farrugia, its best player.

It was a shame to see this youthful Hakoah outfit lose a place in the quarter-finals, but it certainly was no shame to lose to such a fine outfit like Melita Eagles.

APIA led Freshwater 3-0 then slumped and in the end almost lost a point to its unfashionable opponent.

APIA has one of the toughest defences around but Melita has an incredibly attacking line-up and this season should see these two sides at their best with Dennis Hoggarth's Melita Eagles holding a definite advantage in speed and fire.

Sydney Olympic faces Blacktown in the late game at St George Stadium on Sunday and anything but a comfortable victory to Sydney Olympic would surprise.

APIA has Dakos, Ratcliffe, Raskopovski, Kalandzis, Kosmina, Soper, Katholos, Estavillo and a host of other book of internationalists with Meli, Dragicic, Hantzis, Patalis, Kotsamanis all names that could walk into any NSW team tomorrow. That alone should be the draw.

Les Scheinling is well aware of the situation but his young Demons are not going to walk out of this match with their heads held so high. Blacktown has not lost so far in the Cup and drew with Croatia in the last round of the qualifying matches.



State Bank Cup with ALEX VESIC

The Demons have one of the youngest and fastest teams in this competition and one or two slip-ups by Olympic could see the side that won the pre-season competition a few years ago in the semi-finals again.

Croatia will face Sutherland and Marconi will challenge St George in matches set for Saturday at Marconi.

Sutherland finished its qualifying run with six points, after a draw with Canterbury. Sutherland plays in a determined, fast and furious fashion. You never lose money in entertainment value if you watch this team going through its paces.

Terry and Burrows, Meades and Harrington, Dunciville, Lerone and speedy Duncan are the men that will not send shivers down Croatia's spine but, by the same token, be treated with respect.

Croatia is still an overwhelming favorite. Anything that could be a great shock to the world would be a great shock.

Marconi is the team to trouble St George at Marconi Stadium in the late match on Saturday night and I have no other choice but to agree with the tipsters. The Saints have hardly set the world on fire in their qualifying matches and must be considered lucky to still be in this tournament.

This 17-year-old was the player who sped away from the Sutherland defence to give Canterbury the lead after 21 minutes and give his side an unexpected chance to make it into the quarter-finals.

And while some Canterbury supporters still believed that this side could not make it to the quarter-finals, Sutherland came back through captain Mark Harrington. Steve Meades made the break on the right and crossed for Daryl Sharp who headed it on for Mark Harrington and the Sutherland captain struck home a volley from five metres for the equaliser.

That was the very clear message from the Gabbie as Blacktown City demonstrated its speed and efficiency against Wollongong Macedonia in the last round of the qualifying

matches for the 1987 State Bank Challenge Cup.

With fullbacks Maier and Northam running at full steam down both flanks Blacktown surprised its southern visitors. Well known for its rock hard defence, Macedonia fell to bits midway through the first half with Adam Sandy grabbing the first and Brett Thorntwaite the second goal in the space of three minutes.

The game was very score and then, but just for good measure Sandy notched his second two minutes into the second period to make it 3-0 and put it beyond the reach of Macedonia.

Paul Giraldi pulled one back but Jason Van Blerk restored his side's three-goal lead with five minutes remaining.

Sutherland 3 Canterbury 1

At St George Stadium Scorer: Harkoh 30th, Van Blerk 85th (C) Gardiner 60th (K); Thorntwaite 23rd (MVA).

"He is going to be one of the best strikers in Australia within a few years," said Domagjak Kapetanovic of Zlatko Arambasic recently.

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Five minutes later, in the 35th, Duncan restored a superb position ball from Lerond but his shot went wide.

Steve Meades fired in a number of shots. Konitsis saved a couple in the first half, then repeated the dose against Meades in the 53rd and 55th minutes with saves which had the crowd on its feet.

However, it all failed as the Sharks pounced once again with the wind at their backs.

Vandarakis handled on the line and despite some strong protests from Sevieri and Vankarakis a penalty was awarded. Craig Hill, the youngest striker in St George, took the shot with the ease of an experienced player placing the ball high into the roof of the net.

Andy Duncan sped away on the right with 11 minutes remaining to send in a low cross for Lerond to put the issue beyond doubt.

Ku-Ring-Gai 4 Manly Warr 1

At Cromer Park Scorer: Hill 30th, 60th, 60th, Kevan 46th, Pearce 50th (K); Sturt 23rd (MVA).

Hill Ku-Ring-Gai, the new champion of Sydney's soccer-starved north!

Warringah, Freshwater, Manly Warringah and Ku-Ring-Gai proudly represent the northern shores of Sydney in the NSW State League.

None of them qualified for the final but Ku-Ring-Gai managed to get above the other two on the ladder in Group C after this fine 4-1 win over Manly at Cromer Park.

Paul Fagan and Cameron Pearce, Ku-Ring-Gai's new recruits from Queensland, did the damage, after Robbie Stuart put Manly ahead midway through the first half.

Stuart took a corner with the wind blowing a gale. His cross into the middle of the penalty area was closer to the line than Lacey anticipated and finished the ball across the crossbar before the young Ku-Ring-Gai keeper could react.

With this strong wind at its back, Manly looked in complete control and could have added a goal or two with an ounce of sharpness in its shooting.

Ku-Ring-Gai slowly fought its way back to on level terms. Paul Fagan was at the end of a cross from the right hand side to make it 1-1 with two minutes remaining in this period.

It was all Kuringai in the second period and it was just a matter of how many of the Chasers would win. Craig Bass gave a hint of what was to happen with a fine header in the 42nd which just flashed wide.

Four minutes later, David Kevan combined well with Park Nile to beat the Manly keeper and give Kuringai the lead.

A fierce free kick by Cameron Pearson stunned Conrad in goal for Manly in the 50th. He dropped the ball over the line and it was 3-1.

Then in the 60th the Queensland combination of Pearce and Fagan struck again. A cross from Pearce and a touch from Fagan and the scoreline read 4-1.

APIA 3 Freshwater 2

At Cromer Park Scorer: Dounis 31st, 52nd, Baran 34th (A), Corrigan 72nd, Molica 73rd (A).

After scrapping through against Manly Warringah to pinch a point in the dying minutes of the match, APIA had to struggle yet again, this time against an unfashionable Warringah Freshwater at Cromer Park.

Hilton Phillips was replaced due to injury in the 14th minute by Louis Dounis and the ex-Canterbury striker soon gave his side reason to smile. He sunk two goals past Bowman to help APIA take a commanding 3-0 lead. Janus Baran scored the other.

With 28 minutes left it all looked set for APIA to go in 4-0 up, but Freshwater Warringah, in came Freshwater Warringah with a determined late run. Dennis Corrigan and Mark Holloway in the space of two minutes managed to bridge the gap to one goal and suddenly the might of APIA looked very shaky indeed.

Rock Ilinden 1 Wollongong C 1

At Gabbie Stadium Scorer: Sturt 30th (W), D. Wilson 60th, (RJ).

This game only served as an indicator of the form of these sides before the start of the NSW State Bank League.

Wollongong City took the initiative early and had Ilinden on the ropes. Charkowski and went with Pat Brodnik missing quite a few, the woodwork also got in the way and players failed to find the net despite some gaping holes that were created by the visitors from the south coast.

Rade Stevanovic then tried a cross but miscued and found the net in the 30th.

Ilinden tried harder during the second period and managed to hold its own with Darren Wilson, Genovese and Rodas putting in a big effort. With 20 minutes to go, Darren Wilson produced one of the best diving headers seen in years to beat Young and make it 1-1.

Melita Eagles 2 Sydney Hakoah 1

At St George Stadium Scorer: Saad 8th (SH); Foxman 53rd, Wellburn 78th (B).

In one of the toughest matches of the State Bank Challenge Cup so far, Melita defeated Sydney Hakoah with the winning goal arriving two minutes from time.

Abbas Saad, the young Socceroo, gave Hakoah an early lead when he managed to beat the outside trap then lob Pupovac from 35 metres out. It was a superbly taken goal by the youngster who is intent on going places.

Ilinden almost made it 2-0 in the 36th with a fierce drive which found Craig Williams on the line. Williams cleared and Melita survived.

A master stroke by coach Dennis Hoggarth saw Melita come back into the match. He replaced one of his star midfielders, Andrew Callanan, with 17-year-old Richard Buchanan. He was on the park for just over 10 minutes and he made his presence felt. He intercepted the ball after some poor work between Hughes and Robertson to send it across the box for John Foxman to score.

Eddie Thompson introduced D. Marica and his two new recruits from Queensland, did the damage, after Robbie Stuart put Manly ahead midway through the first half.

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BLACKTOWN CITY 4 (Sandy 30th, 42nd), Thornthwaite 3rd, Van Blerk 6th, WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA 1 (Gardiner 50th), Gabbie 50th, Gabbie 50th.

BLACKTOWN CITY: Watson 7, — Maier 8, Reynolds 7, Sterry 7, Northam 8, — Denyer 7, Kay 7, Ellern 7 — Van Blerk 7, Sandy 8, Thornthwaite 8.

WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA: Terzic 8, — Muhlbauer 5, Ruskin 7, Gardner 6, Banni 5.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE 3 (Harrington 30th, Hill 60th Pen, Lerond 69th) **At St George Stadium, Crowd: 1,000**. Referee: P. Smith 3.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE: Watson 7, — Bannister 6, Burrows 6, Nelson 6, Bell 6 (Burrows 53rd), Terry 7, — Lerond 7, — Duncan 7, Sharp 6.

CANTERBURY: Konitsis 8, — Mantas 5, Vandalakis 6, Radman 8, Seven 6, — Nicolopoulos 5, Antonopoulos 6, Petras 6, Arambasic 6, Karassis 6.

MELITA EAGLES 1 (Sturt 23rd) **KU-RING-GAI 4 (Foxman 53rd, 60th, Keaveny 46th, Pearce 50th) at Cromer Park, Crowd: 1,000**. Referee: Conradi 5, — Dennis 6, Mangan 7, Pearce 7, A. Williamson 7, Etherington 5, Juergens 6, Sturt 6, — Lester 6, Cimino 5 (47th round), — Tuck 6.

KU-RING-GAI: Lefevre 6 (40th Carrick 6).

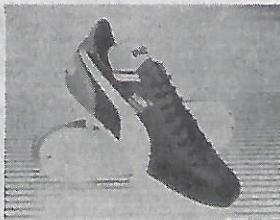
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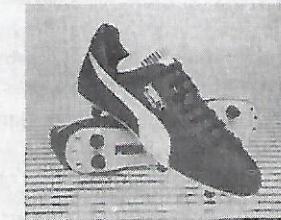
5 MARADONA 10



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KETSAKIDIS!

**Heidelberg 1
Foot JUST 0**
Scorer: Ketsakidis 63rd.

JUST can well consider it self unlucky to have been bundled out of contention so early in this year's Buffalo Cup after its defeat on Saturday night at the hands of a talented Heidelberg side-up.

The team has improved markedly in each game this season and with Tyrone James added to the defence and coach Dragoslav Sekularac back at the helm, JUST was no pushover for a Heidelberg side which proved its calibre the previous week in a hard fought game against Helensvale.

In a close match with plenty of chances, it was Heidelberg's Chris Ketsakidis who broke the deadlock in the 63rd minute when he met a free-kick from Peter Tsolakis and drilled it past JUST goalie Zoran Vlajnic.

Vlajnic had single-handedly denied Heidelberg with a

string of memorable saves starting in the 9th minute with a one-hander, palming a vicious Claude Lucchesi header just wide of the post in a manner reminiscent of Gordon Banks' save from Pele in the 1970 World Cup.

Laurie McKenna took no time to find his place in the Helensvale team-matings, and looked very comfortable next to Kiwi Andy Deely.

John Anastasiadis also displayed some deft touches particularly a back-heel early in the game which unfortunately surprised his team-mates as much as his marker and no one was on hand to take advantage of it.

Ernie Tapai was a dynamo for JUST in a midfield which Sekularac had assembled without Mina Tr Vu, the star of JUST's last outing.

James looked confident and his strong tackling and intelligent passing sent JUST forward on a number of occasions.

But ultimately it was a game which a JUST team still finding its feet this year could not afford to lose, even by the narrowest of margins, and the team will have to content itself with watching the finals of the Buffalo Cup from the sidelines.

— JOHN MANGAN

**Man of the match:
ZORAN VLJANIC
(JUST)**

GREEN GULLY 1 (Ward 5th) CROYDON 0 at Olympic Park, last Wednesday night. Crowd: about 500. referee: Andy Franck 2. Caution: J. Nelson (C).
GREEN GULLY Denys 7 — McLennan 7, Cannell 7, Grimaud 6, Douglas 7 — Fraser 5, Quigley 5, O'Donnell 6 (in), Deakin H.T. 5), Carter 5 — Ward 6, Cumming 6. Coach: Gus Macleod.

CROYDON: Waterman 6 — Marshall 6 (in), Livingstone 52nd), Brack 7, O'Reilly 7, Brown 8 — McDonald 6, Beach 6, J. Nelson 7 — Cooper 6, Bregan 6, French 8. Coach: Jim Tansey

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS 1 (Brown 62nd) ST ALBANS DINAMO 0 at Olympic Park, last Wednesday night. Crowd: about 500 (double header). referee: John Fraser 6. Caution:

Duzel (Dinamo). ST ALBANS DINAMO: Green 7 — Lewis 7, Brown 6, Durakovic 8, Mavcic 7, Culen 6, Grbic 7, Fabrizio 7, Paterson 6, Lam 5, Zim 6. Coach: Duzel. Mavcic 6, Duzel 7, Batinovic 5, Rastovic 7 — Runje 7, Morovic 6. Coach: Tony Vrzina

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 6 (Egan 16th, 60th, Blair 18th, Wright 34th, Stevenson 53rd, Kalogeros 58th) BOX HILL 0 at Olympic Park, last Friday night. Crowd: about 3,500. referee: Colin Ellis 3.

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS: Laumets 5 — Russell 7, Blair 6, Anazakis 7, Milos 6 — Kalogeros 7, Miranda 8, Wade 7, Crainie 8 (in), Andriots 6 (st) — Egan 7, Wright 6 (Stevenson 45th). Coach: Brian Garvey.

BOX HILL: McKinlay 5 — McPherson 3, McMillan 4, Davidson 4, Brimmer 3 — Mazzagatti 5 (J. Mon 45th), Burton 5, Hennessy 5, White 4 — Griffin 5, D. Mon 6 — Coach: George Murray.

MELBOURNE CROATIA 0 GEORGE CROSS 0 at Olympic Park last Friday night. Crowd: about 2,000. referee: Stuart McMillan 5.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Runje 7 — McInosh 6, Dunn 7, Hannah 6 — Talajic 8, Campbell 6, MacLean 6, Redmond 5 — Humble 7, Lewis 7, Lemezne 6 (Biskic 53rd). Coach: Terry Hennessy.

GEORGE CROSS: Keogh 7 — Martin 6, Paton 6, Richardson 6, Taylor 6 — Mitten 6, MacLaren 6 (Markovski 52nd), Inhes 7, Bain 5 — Gilder 7, Edwards 6 (Trimboli 52nd). Coach: John Gardner.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA 4 (van Egmund 21st, 37th, 63rd, Slivkins 8th) FRANKSTON PINES 2 (Miller 40th, Ross 57th) at Olympic Park last Saturday night. Crowd: about 3,000. referee: Rudi Dimic 6. Caution: Dick (FP).

PRESTON MAKEDONIA: Lee 6 — McLennan 6, Opasins 6 (Kondis 66th), Dobson 6 (in), Cull 6 — Markovski 67th), Slivkins 8 (Ujajevski 67th), Roodhouse 6, van Egmund 8, Iloski 6 — Cole 7, Gojovic 7. Coach: Billy Murray.

FRANKSTON PINES: Boland 7 — Cummings 5, Bozic 6, Parks 6 — Watson 6, Cullen 5 (Henry 67th), Ross 7 (Richardson 67th), Ferris 6, Miller 7 — Dick 6, Armstrong 6. Coach: Danny McMinimee.

HEIDELBERG 1 (Ketsakidis 63rd) FOOTSCRAY JUST 0 at Olympic Park last Saturday night. referee: Barry Grant 7. Caution: Deely (H). Crowd: about 3,000.

HEIDELBERG: Oliver 6 — Pappas 7, Ketsakidis 7, Marley 6 — Kaneski 7, Lukic 7, Tsolakis 7 — McKenna 8, Anastasiadis 7 (Brown 62nd), Campbell 7, Cullen 7, Ross 7.

FOOTSCRAY: Just 7 — Vlajnic 8 — Curovic 7, Barjaktarevic 6, Karic 6, Petrovski 7 — Tapai 7, James 7, Milosevic 6 (H. T. Burlak 6) — Lazopoulos 6, Spink 6, Lujic 7. Coach: Dragoslav Sekularac.

Forget about offside

**Man of the match:
MARK BROWN
(Croydon)**

**Green Gully 1
Croydon 0**
Scorer: Ward 5th.

"They (Croydon) should have stumped us in the first half but we came back in the second half. That was them at their best and us at our worst but we got the result, which is a sign of a good team," said Green Gully coach Gus Macleod after this match.

Macleod was realistic enough to admit that Croydon should have won.

Croydon coach Jim Tansey agreed but while most observers already are making Gully favorite for the State League title, Tansey thinks Croydon has just as much chance of winning the championship.

"Our lads were more confident about tackling Gully in the league after this game than they were before the match. They know now that Gully's nothing special," said Tansey.

It was a soft goal that sunk Croydon. How Danny Ward could be unmarked so close to the Croydon goal must be a worry for Tansey. Just five minutes had gone when Ward headed in a Stuart Cannell cross that should have been attacked by Croydon goalkeeper Keith Waterman.

Shortly after, Graham Friend, who had a fine game, struck the ball wide of the left of the Gully area. He should at least have been on target.

Then came the first of five offside incidents where play was waved on. It was really remarkable. Players weren't just barely offside, I'm talking of metres offside, yet the linesman wasn't flagging and referee Andy Frangou, probably heading the fellow official, kept letting play continue.

Mark Brown, doing a tremendous man-marking job, saw Friend run on and lobbed it forward to French in the 27th minute. French was offside. Clearly, he headed the ball to team mate David Brgan, also clearly offside, and Brgan volleyed over the bar. Had he scored the goal would have stood.

Then we really would have had a story to tell for Macleod would have had smoke coming out of his ears and it wouldn't have come from one of those cigars he's becoming renowned for puffing on either.

Five minutes later Brgan, again clearly offside, broke through only to lob the ball over the advancing Lou Denys and wide of the far post.

Just before half-time, Gully's new Scottish recruit Joe O'Donnell, the former Stranraer captain, was scythed down by Jimmy Nelson. The Croydon midfielder was booked and O'Donnell had to be replaced during the interval due to suspected ligament damage.

The second half wasn't anything to write home about. Not the action out on the field anyway. But you'd hardly hear plenty going on in the Press box.

It's your turn for the whisky this week, Schwabie.

— CRAIG MACKENZIE

HOW DID JUVE WIN?

**B Juventus 1
St A Dinamo 0**

Scorer: Brown 62nd.

Juventus fans well scratch their heads in bewilderment following their team's freakish win last Wednesday night.

After two Buffalo Cup ties against NSL opposition, playing some great football and still losing, when it came to tackling State League team Dinamo everything fell in a heap.

But Juventus still won the game.

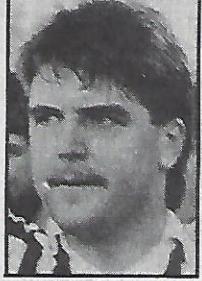
Tony Vrzina's Dinamo team just wouldn't let Juventus settle down and wouldn't give Juventus' players the time to put their subtle skills to good use. Rob Krajacic and Zdenko Brkic combined well at the back for Dinamo clamping down on Juventus's corner.

It was big Brian Brown though who scored the goal which gave Juventus its first Buffalo Cup points for the season, when he was there to knock in a Scott Patterson corner.

For all its efforts, Dinamo could not match that goal. Goran Runje looked dangerous in the 17th minute when he made space to hit a shot from outside the box and a couple of minutes later it took a good tackle by Mehmed Durakovic to stop him as he again moved goalward.

Dennis Morovic also had a fine chance when just a minute

**Man of the match:
PETER LEWIS
(Juventus)**



• Brian Brown



• Scott Patterson

Was it worth the effort?

**Man of the match:
MARK TALAJIC
(Croatia)**

**Croatia 0
George Cross 0**

In all likelihood Melbourne Croatia and

George Cross, the two teams topping Group A approached this game looking for victory. But in the end it just didn't seem worth the effort.

In the previous game Hellas had casually shrugged off the 30 degree plus heat to bang in six goals but the temperature seemed to take the sting out of both the Croatia and George Cross attackers.

As it was, Croatia pre-empted the final whistle by spending the last minute of the game knocking the ball between the back three while the George Cross forwards stood near the half-way line watching them on the off-chance that they might decide to kick the ball up-field.

In spite of the disappointing conclusion and the goalless result the game was not without its chances.

The first clear-cut chance of the game fell to Croatia's Paul Lewis in the 15th minute when he came across goal from the left and cut back a shot which George Cross keeper Sean Keogh did well to hold.

Ten minutes later, Keogh had to race outside his area to deny Lewis a chance to break through.

And Lewis was again in the action when Andy Humble sent Mark Talajic wide on the right for Croatia with a lovely ball. Humble missed Talajic's cross and Lewis could only blast it wide.

For George Cross, Carl Gilder and Andy Edwards were making chances.

A minute before half-time Edwards was the victim of a cynical tackle by George Hanan as he made space on the right wing.

He also hit a shot that only just went over the bar shortly before coach John Gardner substituted him.

Despite the introduction of forwards John Markovski and Paul Trimboli to the George Cross attack, the gritty determination of Gilder, neither Cross nor Croatia could seem to beat the heat and get the ball in the back of the net.

The second half wasn't anything to write home about. Not the action out on the field anyway. But you'd hardly hear plenty going on in the Press box.

It's your turn for the whisky this week, Schwabie.

— JOHN MANGAN

Falcons no to AIS

Morwell Falcons announced at the State League Management Meeting last week that they would definitely not be travelling to Canberra to play against the Australian Institute of Sport team which is entered in the competition for the first time.

The AIS was accepted into the league on the understanding that teams would have the option whether to play their games against the AIS in Canberra or in Melbourne.

Only four clubs have yet to decide. The other

Buffalo State League clubs, among them Green Gully, Croydon City, St Albans Dinamo and Springvale, have all said they will make the trip.

Three of the undecided clubs are Northcote, Polonia and Western Suburbs.

The AIS's first game is against Springvale on March 12. Coach Ron Smith, the goalkeeping advisor to Tom Franklin, has been trying to interest sponsors but is still a couple of weeks from announcing anything. The AIS plans to offer prizemoney for each game played at the Bruce Stadium in Canberra.

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**Improvin
can down**

— By JOHN MANGAN

Footscray JUST, languishing at the bottom of Group B in the Buffalo Cup, has a chance to salvage some pride from its game on Saturday night against second placed Green Gully.

Gus Macleod has guided his team to second place on the table behind South Melbourne Hellas with wins over State League rivals Box Hill and Croydon.

Both those teams have found the going difficult in the Buffalo Cup but JUST which is propelling up the group should provide more competition for the Green Gully team which has been in good form so far.

Just has improved with each game but coach Doug Miller has been with his squad for little over a week and the man who won the 1986 NSL Coach of the Year award still has some fine tuning to complete.

Min is not short on skill, as he has demonstrated, but his fitness has cut his appearances short in JUST's first two matches this year. Last week in his first game under Sekularac, Min didn't even get a run so this Saturday's match could give JUST fans an indication of the team's potential with its new signings.

Gully is by far the more convincing of the State League teams in the Cup and has shown that it is determined to pick up from where it left off last year when it won the Dockey Cup. Nevertheless, JUST should have too much power for Macleod's men and can use this game to climb off the bottom of the Group B table.

Box Hill, hit for six without reply by South Melbourne Hellas last Saturday night, has another tough match ahead of it, this time against Hellas's arch-rival Hidelberg tonight (Saturday) at Olympic Park.

Hidelberg is looking good up front at the moment with the inclusion of new signing Laurie McKenna. He, Andy Deely and John Anastasiadis have all been dangerous in front of goal and should be too much for George Murray's Box Hill team.

Tomorrow, Box Hill will not be quite as easy to get round this time. I expect the Hillmen to tighten up in the defence and they should make the Bergers work hard for their goals.

The second game of the evening brings together George Cross and a Frankston team which gave Preston Makedonia quite a run for their money in the second half of last Saturday's game.

John Gardner's George Cross team promises much particularly in attack but it failed to deliver in the energy-sapping heat at Olympic Park last Friday night in the game against Melbourne Croatia. Striker Carl Glider's form was an encouraging sign though.

Pines pegged back from a 3-0 deficit against Makedonia to 3-2, and, for a while there, the NSL team's defence was looking terribly shaky. If

Pines can maintain that se

especially if Striker Ally I going, Craig Miller on the greatest danger-man at th

Still, Cross has been ab

it has encountered so far

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Croydon's goalkeeper K

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South Melbourne Hellas with Box Hill last Frida

ay defence nervous.

Hellas hasn't put a foot

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don the same sort of treat

out to Box Hill.

John Deegan and Danni

against the Buffalo Cup's

and three goals respective

to bag a few more, but Cro

keep an eye on Paul Wade

coming forward from mi

Danny Crainie was in b

but was carried off injur

Friday night's game.

Croydon's Graham: Fi

score against his old club

game in which he is going

of course.

The second game on F

bourne Croatia against

Tony Vrzina's Dinamo te

beat Juventus in their li

Croatia has got the score

— JOHN MANGAN

• Charlie Egan of He

Here he steadies up to

won this match 6-0

— JOHN MANGAN

In brief

• Melbourne-Hungaria seems to have abandoned plans to amalgamate with Brighton.

Melbourne seems certain to lose most of last year's first team squad and just 13 players attended a training session last week.

The session was held by Robert Morrey and Lou Theodosopoulos but both players are likely to join other clubs this year. Caulfield is keen to sign Morrey while Theodosopoulos will join either Footscray JUFC or Green Gully.

• A match between a world all-star side and a team selected from the English league will head the centenary celebrations of the world's oldest soccer league next season.

The match is planned for Wembley on August 8, with the world side being managed by Terry Venables, the Englishman in charge of Spanish League leader Barcelona.

That game will be followed in November by a challenge match between this season's English and Scottish league champions.

Then, on April 16 and 17 next year, Wembley will stage a six-side knockout competition involving all 92 English League clubs.

Finally, at the end of the season, there will be a tournament for the Centenary Trophy involving the leading eight clubs in Division One at Aston Villa, in recognition of Villa being among the League's pioneers.

• Two Victorian girls have been selected in the Australian Women's youth team which is travelling to America to compete in the Dallas Cup International Tournament in April.

French World Cup midfielder Jean-Marie Ferret put Bordeaux in front after 30 minutes in the inaugural match of the reconstructed municipal stadium. Everton's first attack with goals inside five minutes midway through the second half by Adrian Heath and Ian Snodin.

Snodin later twice saved off his own goal-line with keeper Neville Southall beaten.

A riot triggered by English fans left 39 dead and scores injured at the European Cup Final at Heysel between Juventus of Turin and Everton's neighbour Liverpool.

Liverpool would have played Bordeaux but for an overcrowded program.

European Football Union (UEFA) president Jacques Georges of France said he was

• Gerry Edmondson

Evans, Edmondson and Greechan on the move

Both girls, Denise Wright and Lee-Anne Hamilton, play for Greensborough and are studying at HSC level this year.

This will be the first time that the youth team has played in an international competition and to finance it the Australian Women's Soccer Association is seeking sponsorship from companies. For information on sponsorship phone 222 2223.

The squad is: Bronwyn Carter, Laura Fisher, Linda Alexander, Lisa Van Dorp, Karen Wilkinson, Sarah Cooper, Gail Pace, Yvonne Mitchell, Yolanda McCarthy, Leanne Edmondson, Denise Wright, Lee-Anne Hamilton, Katrina Barsby, Denie Pentecost, Samantha O'Brien, Kerrie Rowe.

The Australian women's titles are being played in Alice Springs in August and the under-18 titles are being held in Brisbane in July. The Victorian Women's Soccer Association is currently accepting applications for coaching positions for these two teams up until February 27. For further details phone Debbie on 795 8456 (H) or 605 6275 (W).

• Everton, the first English team to play in France since the Heysel Stadium disaster in Brussels in 1985, beat French First Division club Bordeaux 2-1 in a friendly match last week.

French World Cup midfielder Jean-Marie Ferret put Bordeaux in front after 30 minutes in the inaugural match of the reconstructed municipal stadium. Everton's first attack with goals inside five minutes midway through the second half by Adrian Heath and Ian Snodin.

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• Gerry Edmondson



• Alan Evans — leaving Sandringham City?

satisfied with security and there was no crowd trouble at the match.

"English clubs can't always stay out in the cold. We welcome them with open arms as soon as the incidents or hooliganism are controlled," he said.

• Victorian League Second Division club Sandringham looks certain to sign Steve Wild from Melbourne hungaria.

Sandringham has retained the services of former Green Gully winger Bill Morrey as coach but there's doubt about ex-South Melbourne Helias striker Alan Evans staying with the club.

Sandringham announced last week that it had signed a major sponsorship deal with

the Argo hotel and was negotiating another sponsorship deal with a major brewing company.

• Gerry Edmondson is on the move from Melbourne Hungaria.

Edmondson played with Ingledew Klev in the West Australian State League before coming to Melbourne and joining Hakaton in the late 1970s. He played with Frankston Pines before joining Melbourne Hungaria, playing an integral part in the success it enjoyed in 1985 when it won its way into State League.

Edmondson can play in defence or in midfield and is on a free transfer. He can be contacted during business hours on 359 9166.

• A branch of the world famous Manchester United Supporters' Club has been formed in Melbourne.

The branch received notification recently from Sir Matt Busby of his acceptance of the position of president of the Australian branch.

The branch plans to provide members with a newsletter, videos, match programs, posters, score cards, scarves, shirts, a pictorial history of Manchester United and a host of other souvenirs.

The branch also will organise group travel tours at discount prices, incorporating United's matches in the UK and Europe and will assist in ticket arrangements for members visiting the UK.

For further information, write to: The Secretary, Manchester United Supporters' Club, Australia Branch, PO Box 423, Doncaster 3108, Victoria.

Basic membership costs \$10 per annum with a signing-on fee of just \$5.

• Kit Greechan has been transferred by Sunbury United at his own request.

Greechan, 29, is a former Albion Rovers, Western Suburbs and Green Gully player. He has been with Sunbury for the past three seasons and won the club's best and fairest award last year.

Cubs interested in contacting the talented Greechan can phone him during business hours on 316 3120.

O'Donnell impressed by Egan, McKinna

By JOHN MANGAN

"I really didn't know what to expect when I came out to Australia," says Joe O'Donnell, Green Gully's recent signing from Scottish club Stranraer, "but I needed a break from my club back home so I thought, well, I might as well give it a try over here."

O'Donnell touched down on Australian soil last July and although he was too late to sign with a club last year it gave him plenty of time to meet a few people in the Melbourne soccer scene.

Then at the end of last season O'Donnell came to the attention of Gully coach Gus Macleod when he played in the Scottish team in the Qantas World Cup. That team was coached by Macleod.

Since then O'Donnell has trained with Brunswick Juniors, Heidelberg and South Melbourne Hungaria.

O'Donnell's most pressing concern was that he needed to sign up with a club straight away so that he could sort out his visa requirements and, understandably, coaches were reluctant to commit themselves without having seen him play a few games.

Macleod however had seen enough in the Qantas World Cup to convince him that O'Donnell was worth snapping up.

"I had a bit of trouble getting Stranraer to release me to Green Gully," says O'Donnell, "but I was here on a holiday and in the end Gus (Macleod) had to speak to them and convince them that I really intended staying here."

O'Donnell is an electrician by trade. He has got a job now and is applying for permanent residency. He is full of praise for Macleod and the people at Green Gully who have helped him to settle down here.



• Joe O'Donnell: "I'm very optimistic about Green Gully's prospects this season."

In fact, the likeable Scot has been impressed generally by how friendly the Australians he has met are.

"At all the clubs I trained with the lads have been really friendly and made me feel right at home. You're only there for a few hours and you're one of the boys. It's great!"

O'Donnell distinguished himself in his three years with Stranraer, becoming runner-up to the club's top player of the year away. Towards the end of last season he was appointed club captain.

By the end of last season though things were changing. A lot of his friends in the team had moved on and he was keen to try his luck in a higher division. Although a number of clubs made offers for him, among them Kilmarnock, Partick Thistle, Morton and Hamilton Academicals, none of them could reach agreement with Stranraer which, depending on interest, was asking as much as \$50,000 for him.

But now O'Donnell is here and he has already tasted the hard edge of Australian soccer.

"I was practically injury-free in all my time at Stranraer but I've only played a few games here — in the World Cup I sprained my ankle and then in my first game for

last week against Croydon I damaged my medial ligament."

Is that because the Australian game is tougher?

"Not at all," says O'Donnell, "it's simply that I've been out of the game for a few months so I'm still returning to full match fitness."

The players who have caught his eye in his short time here have been Charlie Egan and Laurie McKinna and he makes no bones about the fact that his ambition is to be playing with them in the West End National League as soon as possible.

Obviously the best way to achieve that goal is by having a successful season this year with Gully.

"The team's not playing that well at the moment but we're still winning and that's usually a good sign. I'm very optimistic about Green Gully's prospects this season from what I've seen."

And when can we expect to see O'Donnell back in action?

"Well, I'm seeing a physio at the moment and the latest I've heard is that it will be between 10 days and four weeks before I can play again."

And then we all might see O'Donnell hit top form. Certainly an exciting prospect for all Gully fans.

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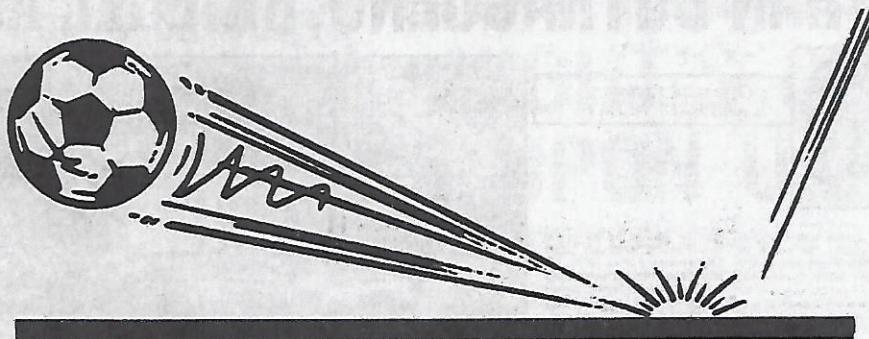


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BETTER THAN BUTRAGUENO, BRIEGEL AND PFAFF

At approximately the same time that Peter Taylor's inclusion in the Aussie test cricket side was puzzling sports fans on this side of the world, their northern hemisphere counterparts were equally mystified by the selection of Igor Belanov as European Footballer of the Year.

The Europeans may not have chorused "Igor who?" because memories of his hat-trick against Belgium during the 1986 World Cup Finals were too vivid, but the first impression would have been that a number of candidates had better qualifications for the award.

World Cup leading scorer Gary Lineker, Spain's lethal striker Emilio Butragueno, Belanov's compatriot Alexandre Zavarov, West German powerhouse Hans Peter Briegel and the Belgian pair of Jean-Marie Pfaff and Jan Ceulemans all initially appeared to be more appropriate.

Yet, Belanov topped the poll with a healthy majority and a closer scrutiny of his exploits during 1986 shows that no other player exerted as much influence as the Dynamo Kiev and USSR striker over World Cup, European championship, European club competitions and domestic tournaments.

History, it can be predicted with a fair amount of confidence, will judge Belanov to be a worthy successor to Alfredo Di Stefano, Yashin, George Best, Johan Cruyff and the other legendary figures who have been crowned Europe's best and the journalists who participated in the poll just as inspired in their choice as the Aussie cricket selectors with Peter Taylor!

Belanov's story is an unusual one for a star Soviet footballer in that he did not attend any of the numerous soccer schools strewn across the USSR which produce an endless stream of talent for the Soviet Supreme League clubs. His soccer education was provided by games with other children from the Odessa neighbourhood he grew up in, which were staged in a local courtyard and went on into the evening.

While playing for his housing estate in the nationwide "Leather Ball" competition for



Overseas round-up with PAUL MOON

juniors, he was spotted by Edward Malofeyev, the coach of Chernomorets ("Black Sea") Odessa. As Belanov reflected during a recent interview: "With him it all began. He was my first proper coach and to him I am eternally grateful."

After graduating quickly from Chernomorets youth and reserve teams, the young striker was estatesheded himself in his senior side when it was time for his two years of compulsory military service and, with it, a couple of seasons playing for the Odessa Army Club.

Upon finishing his army stint, Belanov was approached by Dynamo Kiev coach Valery Lubanovsky, the second great influence of his career, to join the illustrious Dynamo. To most outsiders it would have seemed a golden opportunity as Chernomorets were a mediocre team with little chance of bettering themselves while Kiev had long been an established power in European club competitions. Yet, Belanov, fearing homesickness, turned it down.

After one more season at Chernomorets, Belanov was again offered the chance to move to Dynamo. This time he accepted, but upon completing an initial training session under Lubanovsky, far more arduous than anything previously encountered, considered returning home.

Through sheer application, the South Ukrainian attained the fitness required of him, but it wasn't until his wife and baby daughter were permitted to move to Kiev that he was to settle in the city.

Belanov made his debut for Dynamo at the beginning of the 1985 Soviet League season. Two superb strikes against Spartak Moscow early in the campaign marked him as a player of exceptional ability and goals followed regularly as Lubanovsky successfully moulded the second great Kiev Year.



Igor Belanov, with the Rest of the World team that played against the Americas last year in a charity match staged in Pasadena. Back row: Butcher, Amoros, Stielike, Dassae, Lerby, Magath, Timoumi, Hermann. Front: Strachan, Jennings, Renquin, Park, Rocheteau, Belanov, Rossi.

Is Gullit as good as Maradona?

PSV Eindhoven, financed as it is by the electronics giant Phillips, has spent a lot of money on players over the last two years.

The Danes Ivan Nielsen and Frank Arnesen and the Belgian Eric Gerets, who all played in Mexico, have come to Eindhoven. Dutch internationals Hans van Breukelen and Rene van der Gijp also joined PSV.

But to the public they are merely the people who line up with Ruud Gullit.

Gullit is 24 years old. He has 20 caps. Of Dutch West Indian origin, his main characteristics are his size (extra large) and his Rasta dreadlocks.

His professional career started at 16, with Haarlem. Haarlem's Welsh manager Barry Hughes was impressed by him, and unwisely said as much. Manchester United was after him before he turned 17. In 1982, however, at 19, Gullit joined Feyenoord Holland's Men United. He stayed there for three years and made his debut for Holland.

He joined PSV in 1985. Feyenoord's fans called him a mercenary, but Gullit said he simply wanted to play in a better team. Feyenoord was not even a contender for the Dutch championship.

PSV was gunning for a European Cup. But Gullit was suspended after being sent off in the first round, and without him PSV was beaten by Dniproprostrovsk in the second round.

He is the player PSV can least afford to miss. Although playing as sweeper last season he scored 27 goals and set up many more.

Usually his attacking impulse comes from his Beckenbauer-like rushes from defense.

He will beat five or six opponents and then release a frightening drive or reach the goal-line to cross.

The way he feels opponents is interesting. He doesn't. He just runs past them and is there to press.

His Rasta stripes prevent others from keeping up with him. On one such run for Feyenoord against Alkmaar he ran from one penalty area to the other to sidefoot a goal. Nobody so much as tackled him.

No wonder he was chosen the Dutch Players' Footballer of the Year last year.

Gullit must be the best player not to have appeared in Mexico.

Like George Best, he is the star of a weak national side.

Team-mate Gerets, whose Belgian team reached the semi-finals, said: "Ruud Gullit is an exceptional player. I saw nobody like him in Mexico."

PSV's manager, Hans Kraay, said straight out: "Gullit is as good as Maradona."

But despite his great skill, something may be missing. Does Gullit have the competitive drive which a great sportsman must have?

In 1983 he said: "I don't feel the urge to win. If we win it's fine, and if we lose I don't feel the urge to win."

He admitted that after Belgium eliminated Holland from the World Cup in a play-off he slept very well, thank you.

Holland's irascible manager Rinus Michels ("Football is War") lambasted him so severely one would have thought Gullit had slept during the match itself.

Gullit claims to be more competitive now, but one cannot picture him sobbing on Michels' shoulder after a defeat. He would more probably be strumming a guitar and singing gentle love songs beside an Amsterdam canal.

He comes from bohemian Amsterdam and his single "Not the Dancing Kind" reached the top ten although it does not have a footballing theme.

His song-writer says of him: "He hasn't got Iglesias' timbre, but then he's more rhythmic. He could stop playing football and become a pop star."

But Gullit says he has no more musical ambitions. He may be a more single-minded footballer today than he once was, but if PSV or Holland don't have a lot of success this year, it probably won't keep Gullit awake at night.



• Ruud Gullit of PSV Eindhoven. His manager says Gullit "is as good as Maradona."

Burkinshaw at Sporting Lisbon Aragones back

• Former Tottenham Hotspur manager Keith Burkinshaw has been appointed coach of Sporting Lisbon.

• Albert Roosens, Secretary General of the Belgian football federation, has been charged with "manslaughter through negligence" following the riots at the Heysel Stadium in Brussels two years ago in which 39 people died. Roosens supervised ticket sales.

• Progressos has qualified for the Libertadores Cup for the first time by winning a play-off among the Uruguay league's top four clubs.

• Hungarian World Cup de-

fender Antal Roth has moved from Pecs to Holland's Feyenoord for a \$200,000 transfer fee.

• Former Leeds United and Scotland winger Eddie Gray, the latest manager at Rochdale, an English Fourth Division club which has had 17 men in charge of it since 1945.

• Sydney City Hakoah's Clint Gosling was included in the New Zealand squad for a four game series against Soviet

Dynamo Minsk which began on February 8.

• Luis Aragones has resumed as coach of Athletic Madrid. He returned the post last August, while suffering from severe depression, but was persuaded to return when the second of his successors was dismissed.

• The draw for the fifth round of the English FA Cup is Arsenal v Barnsley, Wimbleton v Everton, Tottenham Hotspur v Newcastle United,

Walsall v Watford, Stoke City v Coventry City, Leeds United v Queen's Park Rangers, Wigan Athletic v Hull City, Sheffield Wednesday v West Ham United. The matches will be played on the mornings of February 22 and 23, Australian time.

• The USSR won the Jawaharlal Nehru Gold Cup for the third successive year when defeating Bulgaria 2-0 in the final at Kozhikode.

• The venue for this year's European Cup Winners' Cup Final on May 13 has been switched from Rotterdam to the Olympic Stadium, Athens. UEFA feared crowd violence had Rotterdam retained the fixture.

ITALY'S SHOW ALREADY IS ON THE ROAD

It is over six months since Jorge Burragacha scored the winning goal in the 1986 World Cup Final in Mexico City ... yet the show is already on the road to the bid to stage the 1990 finals in Italy.

And one surprise is that it is by no means that the final will be staged in Rome.

As in Spain in 1982 the threat of political infighting looms large over prospects for bringing the municipally-owned stadia up to scratch or even checking that they possess the basic structural requirements for the necessary conversations to meet the rules on seating capacity, VIP areas, media, etc. Subject to particular doubt are the stadia at Bari, Turin (believe it or not) and Udine.

Italy's top sports official (and Local Organizing Committee president) Franco Carrara has already admitted publicly that the stadia available need between 20 and 80 percent redevelopment costing around \$140 million.

As for the Stadio Olimpico in Rome, this has been heavily criticised as outdated and inadequate to cope with the expected public and media demands.

Already proposals have been floated for the final to be allocated to the Stadio Meazza at San Siro, Milan, for the "second" Rome stadium, the Flaminio, to be enlarged; or even for a new 140,000-capacity stadium to be built on the outskirts of the capital.

As things stand (and without any particular order of priority for the "plum" matches), the 12 stadia to be recommended this coming spring to FIFA will be Turin, Milan, Genoa, Verona, Udine, Bologna, Florence, Rome, Naples, Bari, Cagliari and Palermo.

This would, of course, involve most regions from Udine in the north to Palermo in Sicily and Cagliari in Sardinia. But already, of course, there have been predictable protests from towns passed over, notably Ascoli, Lecce and Perugia. But they, it appears, are expendable. The issue of the stadia is, after all, a perfect example of what one might term a political football.

All this public awareness about issues which have been developing behind the scenes for the past 18 months came with the formal presentation of the Italian Cup committee's plans to the Italian state President, Francesco Cossiga.

It was a grand occasion in Rome's Quirinal Palace. President Cossiga of FIFA met President Joao Havelange of the Brazilian millionaire who has guided FIFA for the last 12 years — who has by

far the greater international fame (or notoriety, depending on which side of the political fence you sit).

The fascination of this "summit" was that the world's game's greatest event will be shaped in three and a half years' time.

It was in December, 1984, that the 1990 finals were awarded to Italy, which will thus become the first European nation to stage the finals twice — the original hosting having been in 1934, when Italy beat Czechoslovakia 2-1 after extra time in the final under the watchful eye of Mussolini.

Italy's rivals for the 1990 nomination included France, West Germany, England and the Soviet Union. In the case of both France and the Soviet Union it was felt that their candidatures were, in fact, stalking horses in advance of more serious attempts to win the staging rights for 1998.

The Italian federales quickly set up a steering committee which, although all members of the committee had been taken, the dates of the finals remain uncertain.

The starting date is expected to be the second or third week of June. But no one can say for certain.

What is assured is the huge profit which the finals will make thanks to the business acumen behind the Italia '90 organising committee. This has been set up as a private company with income coming from FIFA, through the ESL-co-ordinated InterSoccer Four sponsorship programme, and licensing and merchandising, from television fees and, last but by no means least, from match ticket sales.

Unlike past World Cup finals tournaments, it is intended to grade ticket prices this time according to the importance and comparative attraction of the various matches. Whether this is a practical proposition, given the need to price package tours etc far in advance of the finals draw in December, 1983, appears open to question.

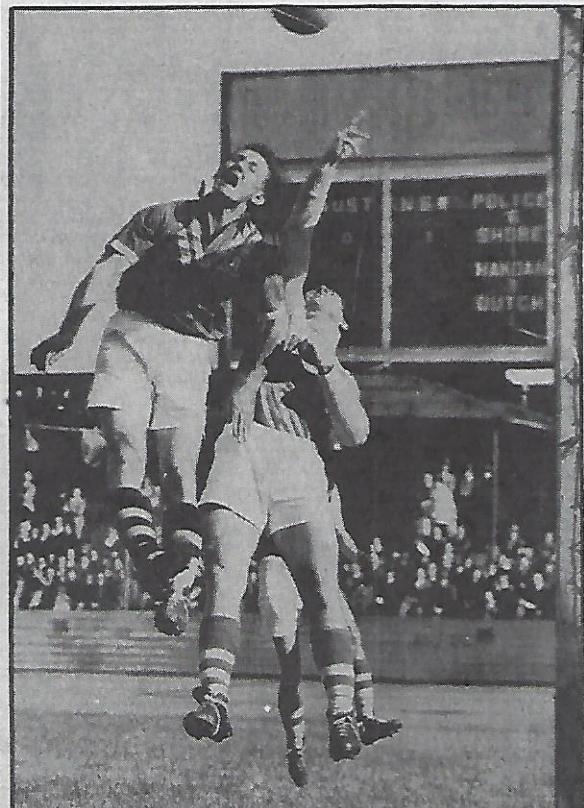
At least the match formula for sorting out the 24 nations will remain similar to the system used in Mexico, i.e. six first round groups of four teams with the top two from each group plus the four third-placed teams with the best record, entering the second round.

From this stage onwards the tournament will

again be organised on direct elimination lines

with penalty shoot-outs used to separate teams which are level after extra-time. When asked why persevere with the shoot-outs, FIFA secretary-general Sepp Blatter said, "Because they're better than the toss of a coin."

BLASTS FROM THE PAST



• NSW goalkeeper Ron Lord (right) punches the ball clear before Australian forward Frank Parsons can head it in. This clash, in September 1950, ended in a surprising 3-0 win for NSW at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Parsons was one of the most prolific goalscorers in the history of soccer in NSW and in later years turned to soccer administration. Lord still is regarded as the greatest ever goalkeeper to wear the green and gold.



• George Cross forward "Ginger" Caesar is down and almost out. He can't believe that he's missed this chance to push the ball into the unguarded goal. In the background is South Melbourne Hellas goalkeeper Tanayotis Taitso. This was the 1960s, a golden era for both clubs, a time when George Cross won the Australia Cup and Hellas won championships galore.



• Slovan Bratislava toured Australia in 1966 and boasted seven Czechoslovakian internationals. They were, from left: Joseph Adamec, Ludovit Cvetler, Anton Urban, Jan Popluhar, Alexander Horvath, Joseph Fillo and Willie Schroff.



• The now defunct Slavia in 1980. Back row: Tony Vrzina, John Cullen, Mick McGorian, Davie Griffiths, Paul Wade, Rajko Bjelica, Fred Neri, Liam Houston, Danny Ward, Harry Chalkitis, Kaz Kowalec. Front row: Cliff Whiteside, Billy Brindle, Daryl Gooch, Paul Cooke, Stevie Lawson, Andy Golby, Neville Haupt, David Pye.



• Norman Conquest was Australia's goalkeeper during its greatest ever home win in a soccer field. England defeated Australia 17-0 at the SCG in the 1950s.



• Roger Romanowicz at Socceroo training in 1967, two days before making his debut for the national team in goal against New Zealand. He had just turned 20 then. Romanowicz was born in Germany and was three years old when he came to Australia. He played Australian Rules football until a group of friends talked him into switching to soccer. He joined Polonia Adelaide when he was 16.



• The name Hakoah no longer exists in Victorian soccer but it remains one of that State's greatest ever clubs. And here's one of the mightiest Hakoah sides of all times. It's 1968 and this Hakoah team has got class and character. Back row: Dick van Alphen, Mike O'Hara, Hugh Mumford, George Keith, Ian Moran, Jim Armstrong. Front row: Alex Purdie, John O'Neill, Ted Smith, Keith Fry, Alan Stanhouse. Keith went on to make 22 Socceroo appearances, his first in 1967 against New Zealand. Armstrong made four Socceroo appearances while van Alphen's 10-game national team stint started in 1967 against New Zealand and ended in 1968 against Japan.



• This certainly is an historic picture. The cynics will say that it's because there's a crowd at Bruce Stadium and certainly, we don't see sights like this in Canberra nowadays. It's May 6, 1978, the date of Canberra City's 0-0 draw with Marconi in the Phillips League. The man in action is the great Peter Marinello who was guesting with Canberra at the time. Marinello was a former Hibs and Arsenal player once described as the new George Best. Incidentally, there were 8,416 people at this game. My, how things change.

ΤΑ ΝΕΑ ΤΩΝ ΟΜΑΔΩΝ ΜΑΣ ΑΠΟ ΤΟ ΣΗΜΕΙΟ ΤΟΥ ΠΕΝΑΛΤΥ

by
Manos
Milios

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΚΥΠΕΛΛΟ

Ο ΧΟΡΟΣ του ελληνικού Κυπέλλου θα γίνεται στις 27 Φεβρουαρίου και θα δρά 8.00 μ.μ. στο "KANI'S RECPTIONS".

Κατά την διάρκεια της βραδιάς θα γίνεται και η απονομή των επάνθλων στους διακριθέντες παίκτες.

ΗΡΑΚΑΝΗ - ΤΟΝΙΑΣΤΑΟΥ

ΤΗΝ Κυριακή 22/2 στο γήπεδο του Εραλδί η γιορτή του ελληνικού Κυπέλλου ΗΡΑΚΑΝΗ και η αντίστοιχη του Ιταλικού για πρώτη φορά θα συναντηθούν μεταξύ τους. Ο αγώνας θα γίνεται στις 4.00 μ.μ. ενώ στις 2.00 μμ. θα αναμετρηθούν οι σιναλίστρες των δύο κυπελλών Ελλάς (νέοι) και Ιταλικού.

BUFFALO GOLD CUP

ΓΙΑ το κύπελλο πάρασο απόψε ο Αλέξανδρος θα αντιμετωπίσει το Μπέζ ΧΙΛ (7.15) και στη συνέχεια η Έ.Κ.ρος θα πάξει με το Ζερνικόντο.

Την Ηρακλεινή θα έλθει (7.15 μ.μ.) παίξει με το Κρήνιτον και στο δεύτερο μέτρο η ομάδα της Κροτσίας με το Σ.Α.λμπανός. Το Σάββατο 21/2 θα παλέουν Εράστη-Ιγκρίν Πιελάν και Πιουβέντους-Πρέστον.

ΚΩΔΗΗΑΝΤ - ΒΟΝΙΚΟΣ

ΗΠΑΡΗΓΗΤΙΚΟΥ Βιοργανώνει η ομάδα Εθνικός Κώδηηαντ στο γηπέδο του την Ιανουάριου.

ΚΑΙΣΤΟΝ ΧΙΑ

ΚΑΣΕ Δευτέρη, Τετάρτη και Παρασκευή προπονείται το Κλήφον ΧΙΑ στο γήπεδο του. Επίσης δρχισαν οι εγγραφές για τα τέλος πλεκτροφωτισμού για να υπάρξει παγυνίδια.

ΚΥΠΕΛΛΟ ΠΑΛΛΑΙΝΑΚΩΝ

ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΥ την Κυριακή οι προκοπατικοί αγώνες του Κυπέλλου των Πλατιμάχων που γίνονται στο γήπεδο του Ηρακλείου. Συναντήσεις είναι οι εξής: 12.00 μ.μ. ΗΕΛΛΑΣ - ΚΑΡΠΙΝΑ, 1.30 ΓΙΑΡΡΑΒΙΑ - ΕΜΠΑΣΣΥ, 3.00 ΓΚΡΗΚ ΣΠΟΤ - ΓΟΥΑΒΕΡΑ και 4.30 ΓΚΑΡΠΤΕΝ ΣΙΤΥ - ΜΟΡΝΤΙΑΛΟΚ.

ΗΕΤ ΑΙΤΩΝΑ

ΝΕ ΤΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΗ ΘΕΟΧΑΡΑΚΩΝ δρχισε προπονήσεις η Ε.Σ.Α.λτόνα κάθε Τρίτη και Πέμπτη στο γηπέδο της. Επίσης δρχισαν και οι εγγραφές των Ζερνικών. Πληροφορίες στο 314 0143 στον πρέσβερο Β. Γιαννακοβλή.

ΔΟΣΑ ΓΙΑΡΡΑΒΙΑ

ΚΑΘΙΣ Τρίτη και Πέμπτη προπονείται η ΔΟΣΑ Γιάρραβιλ στο παλιό γηπέδο της στο EDWARDS RESERVE, BRUNEL ST. SPOTSWOOD MY 4.1 - G12, και στις 6.30 μ.μ.

Άσριο Πέμπτη η Δόξα δίνει φιλικινό αγώνα με την Γουέστ στο Σ.Α.λμπανός και δρά 6, ενώ το Σάββατο θα παίξει στο Σικάου Σπρίντ καινούρια με την τοπική ελληνική ομάδα.

Η συνάντηση έχει χαρακτήρα προπονήσεων.

ως και θα αρχίσει στις 4.00 μ.μ.

Σύντομα η Δόξα θα κάνει προπονήσεις στο κανονιστικό της γήπεδο που έχει τέλεο πλεκτροφωτισμού για νυχτερινά παγυνίδια.

ΚΥΡΡΙΟΣ - ΡΙΟΥΒΕΝΤΟΥΣ - ΚΑΙΣΤΟΝ ΧΙΑ

Ο ΚΕΑΡΟΣ ταλαντούχος παίκτης του ΚΑΙΣΤΟΝ ΧΙΑ προπονείται με την Γιουβέντους και έχει αφήσει δριστες στην πατωπόσεις. Σύγχρονα όπως φαίνεται ο δριστός αυτός γνολήκηρης θα βρεθεί στο Νέσιοναλ Αγρι. Οπωρόποτε διώς διάθληση επαργόρυππον από την καλή θέληση δλων. Δημητρίου ο ποτέ σε ταλαντούχο θα γίνεται διάσημος στην πατωπόσεις.

Επίσης η Γιουβέντους θα πρέπει να πάρει θέμα λογικό και να ζεινεί διάθληση στην πατωπόσεις του Κέρυγκο αλλά θα της θυεί χρονικά στο στόχο της.

ΣΤΟΝ ΗΡΑΚΑΝΗ Ο ΔΙΑΜΑΝΤΑΡΗΣ

Ο ΘΕΑ Διαμαντάρης ο ταλαντούχος κυνηγός του Πόρτ Μέλμπούρν έχει έλθει σ' επαφή με τον Εραλδί και δύος φαίνεται θα κάτια λήξει στην κυανόβεντη ομάδα.

ΖΗΤΟΥΝΤΑΙ ΠΡΟΠΟΝΗΤΕΣ

ΠΡΟΠΟΝΗΤΕΣ για τις ομάδες των Ζερνικών ζητάει η Δόξα και οι ενδιαφερόμενοι πρέπουν να τηλεφωνήσουν στον πρέσβερο Ζερνικό.

ΑΤΡΟΝΗΤΟΣ

ΣΥΝΕΚΙΖΕΙ ο Ατρόνητος τις προπονήσεις κάτια από τις οδηγίες του Χρ. Μπλάνα.

Juve: squadretta o squadrone?

VIVA ITALIA! with ROCKY DI ZIO

I risultati fin qui conseguiti dalla Juventus nella Coppa notturna non sono certamente brillanti, ne' lasciano intravedere repentina miglioramenti di una certa notevolezza; ma nel clan bianconero sembra regni una certa dose di consapevole fiducia. Alemanno a sentire il team manager Joe Caruso.

Per cominciare Sean Lane gode della massima fiducia del dirigente juventino e dovrà perciò produrre, prima o poi, i risultati che l'elito aspettarsi da un giocatore pagato una tombola.

Caruso ha tenuto a precisare ancora una volta che l'ex attaccante del Preston è stato "buttato in mare" nella Coppa Notturna con il minimo di allenamento dopo cinque mesi di inattività.

Quindi con un Zinni come "gemello" in avanti ed un Patterson come appoggio e fornitore di palloni, il nuovo acquisto dovrebbe formare un trio incisivo una volta che

avrà raggiunto la condizione fisica e l'intesa necessarie.

Il centrocampista Caruso ammette che si sono creati dei vuoti con le partenze di Petersen e Wade; ma la situazione secondo lui non è poi tanto tragica e potrebbe migliorare di molto.

Oltre a Patterson che sta dimostrando una maggiore inclinazione al ruolo di centrocampista d'attacco rispetto a quello di punta avanzata, Grbac è un giocatore che secondo Caruso dovrebbe fare grandi cose; Durakovic potrebbe anche essere impiegato a centrocampo e tutti sanno ormai che è un attleta di grandi mezzi; Cullen con la sua grande esperienza e per sempre una grande importanza.

Ma forse la notizia migliore per quello che riguarda il centrocampo è che Caruso crede c'è siano buone possibilità che John Dowie, operato alcune settimane fa al tallone d'Achille, possa essere pienamente ristabilito pronto a scendere in campo per l'inizio del campionato.

Poche speranze esistono anche per Eddie Campbell che

"Naturalmente — ha detto Caruso — sappiamo che a centrocampo ci sono dei punti deboli e teniamo sempre gli occhi aperti per qualche nuovo elemento; ma vogliamo solo qualche eccezionale che non capita tutti i giorni. Se non capita, faremo il meglio possibile con il materiale che abbiamo a disposizione, senza buttare soli di vento".

Per quanto riguarda la difesa Caruso sembra sicuro che non ci dovrebbero essere problemi: ha la massima fiducia nel giovane estremo difensore Maramammo e crede che l'incantatologo diventerà un buon terzino.

Caruso ha detto che il club e' pronto ad acquistare un altro "giovane portiere" e che quindi il migliore dei due giocherà, come del resto prescrive la regola fondamentale del gioco. Sembra certo però che il club non cercherà di trattenere Yakkha Banovic messo da tempo in lista di trasferimento.

Quindi stando a come Caruso vede la situazione attuale alla

potrebbe finire al Croatia, anche se alla Juventus non dispiacerebbe che il miglior giocatore dell'anno dello scudetto nazionale rimanesse in bianconero.

Intanto John Yzendoorn e' atteso a Melbourne (e' attualmente in vacanza a Bali) per sabato e dovrebbe scendere in campo sabato sera contro il Preston.

Per questo incontro McKendry dovrà avere a disposizione tutta la rosa dei titolari (ad eccezione di Dowie) e perde perciò continuamente a dare i ritocchi definitivi a quella che dovrà essere la formazione base.

Una cosa e' certa: contro il Preston la Juventus scenderà in campo per vincere e manterrà ancora accessa la speranza di qualificarsi per le semifinali; questa possibilità puo' apparire molto remota, ma non e' matematicamente da escludere.

Quindi stando a come Caruso vede la situazione attuale alla

Juventus, le cose non sono brillanti ma nemmeno tanto male. E potrebbero migliorare di molto una volta che Lane comincia a girare a pieno ritmo, Dowie viene recuperato, i "ragazzi" acquistano fiducia e qualche elemento di alto valore viene pescato sul mercato locale o all'estero.

Una cosa e' certa però: la Juve dovrà dimenticare una volta per sempre la grande Juventus tuta a vicenda. Il campionato come si è abituati di una quindicina di vita o di morte e senza badare a spese.

L'amministrazione attuale non e' disposta ad andare oltre certi limiti nel trattare condizioni con giocatori vecchi e nuovi. La parola d'ordine deve essere "o così o niente".

In linea di massima non possiamo essere d'accordo con un irrigidimento da parte dei dirigenti nei confronti di giocatori che chiedono sempre più in un "business" che rende sempre meno.

Pero' ci vorrebbe anche una certa diserzione ed una certa coerenza. Non, per esempio, non avremmo permesso che giungesse come Wade e Campbell lasciassero il club per una manciata di dollari in più, quando per acquistare Lane si e' spesa una mezza fortuna.

I dirigenti juventini giureranno che nel caso di Wade non e' stata una questione di soldi e forse sarebbero capaci di fare lo stesso per quanto riguarda Campbell.

Ma se non si tratta di soldi, di cosa ci tratta allora? Possiamo avanzare varie speculazioni ma non servirebbero a nulla. Il fatto rimane che giocatori chiave debbono essere trattati a tutti i costi, o quasi.

Per Wade e' ormai troppo tardi, ma per Campbell ci potremmo avvicinare varie speculazioni ma non servirebbero a nulla. Il fatto rimane che giocatori chiave debbono essere trattati a tutti i costi, o quasi.

JUGOSLOVENSKA SCENA

Ivan Jankovic, a primio jeftin gol.

Ove nedelje igra se 4. kolo. Danas sena: Olympik Parku sastoji stedici timovi:

Heledberg - Boj Hill i 7.15, George Cross - Frankston Pines i 8.40 uvece.

U petak uvece raspored je sledeci:

S. M. Hellas - Croydon City i 7.15pm, Melbourne Croatia — St. Albans Dinamo i 8.40pm.

KLUPSKE VESTI

SPRINGVALE UNITED odigraje je prva prijateljska utakmica protiv CLAYTON INTERA nereson 2:2 (0:1).

"Plavi" su poveli sa 1:0 preko Dragosav Jelicica u 20. minuti, postog ga je idealno poslužio Cane Velevski.

U 50. minuti Cane Velevski je povisio za 2:0 iz slobodnog udarca sa 10 metara.

Umesto da dotuk demoralizujuće protivnika, "plavi" su uspislj tempo umalo sto nisu dozvili pera.

Sastav Springvale Utd: Milan Mandic (četiri), Goran Todorovic, Mica Jankovic (od 46. min.), Goran Todorovic, Mica Jankovic, Tomi Divic, Predrag Pajic, Nenadja Dragojevic (Peter Dangoski od 46. min.), Ilija Kerecovic, Mark Gentile, Dragosav Jelicic, Goran Todorovski, Aleksandar Velevski. Najbolji igrač: Aleksandar

Velevski, Mica Jankovic i Draško Jeljicic.

U predigri je rezerva Springval Uniteda pobedila domaci drugi tim sa 1:0 (0:0). Strelac: Stanko Sotirovski u 40. minuti.

Revars susret ova dva klubu odigraje se u nedelji 15. februara u imanju Jugoslovenskog radnickog centra u Keysborough.

Prostog ceturkav "Plavi" iz Springvala bili su gosti south Springvala sa kojim su igrali nereson 1:1 (0:1). Strelac Peleut. Lutgens.

Trenar Ivica Cvek, koji je ponovo preuzeo ovu dužnost izjavio je da ga ocekuje dobro rezak rad. Naime, njegova vec sve ostala, koja ponovljeno je u "Jugoslovenskoj sekociji" "Bratstva/Jedinstvo". Tako je bilo pre 10 godina pa se streljivo radom stvario dobar, tim, koji se skoro rasturio. Tunc, u plodne rade treba ocekivati kroz dve do tri godine. Ivica Cvek u radiju priznaje Brane Basic i Bruno Gentile.

WAVERLEY CITY — CENTRAL CITY/CRVENA ZVEZDA 2:1 (1:0). Strelac za Crvenu Sasa Milenkovic iz jednaestera u 87. minuti. S obzirom na rang takmicenja ova dva kluba, poraz Zvezde je ra-

van poledi, sto se po igri lako moglo doigrajeti, Ipak, pobedio je nekoliko tim.

Sastav Zvezde: Bojan Simic, Zoran Rokandic, Andrew Halvani, Dragisa Nikolic, Ivan Karic (Dejan Andjelkovic od 55. minuta), Dragan Milenkovic, Boris Andjelkovic, Novica Cacic, Goran Simic, Sasa Milenkovic, Zivko Vuckovic.

Na ovaj utakmici Ivica Karic je povredio nogu, ali se veruje da ce kratko pauzirati. Uprava i igrači su nestripljeno ocekivali njegov povratak i zele mu brzo ozdravljenje.

Rezerve su igrale nereson 2:2 (2:1). Strelac: Goran Skadrić u 86. i 103. Pobedili su rezultatom 1:0 igrači svog tima.

Novi trener Zvezdine rezerve Petar Pervaz bio je vise nego zado-voljan sa rezultatom i igrači svog tima.

U ceturkav 19. februara prvi timovi Springval Uniteda i Crvene zvezde igraju prijateljsku utakmicu u Keysborough u 7 sati uvece.

Altona Cup: Moshel Rangers

— Mladiot 2:1 (0:1). Mladiot je povela sa 1:0 preko Slobodani Dimitrijevskog, ali je pred kraj igre primila 2 gola iz penala.

Igrac utakmice bio je Milutin Cacic. Danas u 7.10pm. Mladiot igra protiv Altona City na Kim Reserve.

Αμαντάτη στο 682068. Επίσης δρχισαν σε εγγραφές των ζερνικών του συλλόγου.

ΔΑΙΠΗΑΠΟΡ - ΔΟΣΑ Ι - Ι

ΜΕΤΑ από ενδιαφέροντα αγώνα που είχε αρκετό πλέοντα και δύναμη το λαζαλόρ και η Δόξα Γιάρραβιλ έφεραν ισοταλία I-I.

Στο σκόρ προηγήθηκε η γηπεδούνος με τον Νελεύστεπούλο στο 56' και η Δόξα φέρει στο 72' με φάουλ του Γιάρραβιλ Μελέπτη. Με την ομάδα του Γιάρραβιλ δεν αγωνίστηκε ο ποτέ παλιός παίκτης Δημήτρης Μαλέπτης. Η πατωπόσεις και η απόσταση της Δόξας από την πατωπόσεις της Ελλάδας ήταν τόσο μεγάλη ώστε να διαπιστώθηκε ότι η Δόξα δεν έχει θέση στην πατωπόσεις της Ελλάδας.

Οι συμπατίες του, ο προπονητής το Δ.Σ. και ο στάλας είχανται στον συμπατή Τζέιμς ταχεία ανάρρωση.

ΠΑΛΑΙΜΑΧΟΙ

ΤΑ αποτελέσματα των αγώνων του Κυπέλλου των Πατακιώνων είναι τα έξι:

ΕΠΙΒΑΣΙΣ - ΜΟΡΝΤΙΑΛΑΚ 2 - 0

ΟΚΛΑ - ΠΕΛΟΝΙΑΣ 3 - 1

ΠΑΝΑΓΙΑΚΙΚΗ - ΓΚΑΡΠΤΕΝ 2 - 0

ΚΑΡΠΙΝΤΑ - ΓΚΡΗΚ ΣΠΟΤ 4 - 1

ΑΤΡΟΝΗΤΟΣ

ΣΥΝΕΚΙΖΕΙ ο Ατρόνητος τις προπονήσεις κάτια από τις οδηγίες του Χρ. Μπλάνα.

ΠΛΑΒ ΜΑΣΙΝΑ ΙΟΣ ΣΚΡΙΠ

Προσέρχεται ο Ιωάννης Σκριπ, ο οποίος θα αποτελέσει την πρώτη παρατητική στην πατωπόσεις της Ελλάδας.

Παντελίδης θα αποτελέσει την πρώτη παρατητική στην πατωπόσεις της Ελλάδας.

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WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18 KO 7.15

HEIDELBERG ALEXANDER

vs

BOX HILL

FOLLOWED BY

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS

vs

FRANKSTON PINES

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20 KO 7.15

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS

vs

CROYDON CITY

FOLLOWED BY

MELBOURNE CROATIA

vs

ST ALBANS DINAMO

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21 KO 7.15

FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T.

vs

GREEN GULLY

FOLLOWED BY

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS

vs

PRESTON MAKEDONIA